

U.S. Embassy Athens, Greece

November 7, 2014

Security Message for U.S. Citizens: November 17th Demonstrations

This security message alerts U.S. citizens to the potential for large demonstrations throughout Greece on Monday, November 17, 2014. Demonstrations are expected to take place during the afternoon and evening in the center of Athens, in the vicinity between Syntagma Square and the U.S. Embassy; in Thessaloniki, in the area of the U.S. Consulate General; and on and near university campuses nationwide. U.S. citizens **should avoid these areas on November 17 after 2:00 p.m.** U.S. citizens seeking consular services on November 17 should be aware that **the U.S. Embassy in Athens and the Consulate General in Thessaloniki will close at 2:00 pm** or earlier, should circumstances warrant.

November 17 is the anniversary date of the 1973 protests against the then-ruling junta. In the past, some demonstrations commemorating this date turned violent, and led to the destruction of property. **Exercise caution and common sense:** avoid the areas of demonstrations, and if you find yourself too close to a demonstration, move in the opposite direction and seek shelter. Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence.

Traffic and public transportation in the vicinity of demonstrations are likely to be adversely affected.

We encourage all U.S. citizens to review their personal security plans, remain aware of their surroundings, including local events, monitor local news stations for updates, and report specific incidences of targeted violence to the U.S. Embassy in Athens or the U. S. Consulate General in Thessaloniki at the numbers below. U.S. citizens should maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance their personal security. For additional information, please refer to "[Travelers Checklist](#)."

U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Greece are encouraged to enroll in the Department of State's [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#). By enrolling, U.S. citizens make it easier for the Embassy or nearest Consulate to contact them in the

case of an emergency. U.S. citizens without Internet access may register directly with the U.S. Embassy in Athens. Regularly monitor the [Department's website](#) where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the [Country Specific Information for Greece](#).

Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the United States and Canada or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). You can also stay up to date by bookmarking our [Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#), which contains the current [Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts](#) as well as the [Worldwide Caution](#). You can follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#) as well.

You can contact the U.S. Embassy in Athens for general consular assistance and up-to-date information on conditions in Greece. The U.S. Embassy in Athens is open 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday, except on Greek and U.S. official holidays and the last Wednesday of every month. The U.S. Embassy in Athens can be reached by e-mail, or by telephone at 210-720-2414, or 210-729-4444 for after-hours emergencies. During office hours, the U.S. Consulate General in Thessaloniki can be reached by e-mail, or by telephone at 2310- 242- 905. **If you are a U.S. citizen with an after-hours emergency, please call the U.S. Embassy in Athens at 210-729-4444.**